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Hay Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1961

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Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1961

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District for the year 1961.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/62 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 39,153 acres.

The Rural District of Hay has an area of 39,153 acres forms part of the County of Breconshire. This district is situated in the northern part of the County, is agricultural in nature with farming as the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the area but in the district are two large hospitals, the Mental Hospital at Talgarth, and the South Wales Sanatorium at Bronllys.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 1010 giving an average number of 3.6 persons per house.

Population.

Census 1931.....	4028.
Census 1951.....	3869.
Census 1961.....	3728.
Estimated Midsummer 1961.....	3660.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below.

1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.

3647. 3711. 3680. 3680. 3680. 3640. 3640. 3640. 3630. 3660.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
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Legitimate	28.	25.	53.	
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Illegitimate	2.	2.	4.	
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	30.	27.	57.	15.5
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The corrected birthrate was 20.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.4

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also higher than the district deathrate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births during the year was four.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
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	32.	39.	71	19.4
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The corrected deathrate was 11.2

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.0

The district rate was therefore slightly lower than the national average and also lower than the birthrate.

Still Births. There were two still births registered during the year, giving a rate of 33.8. The national still birth rate was 18.7 per 1000 live and still births.

Total live and still births.....59.

National Infantile Mortality Deathrate.....	21.4
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Maternal Mortality Rate.....0

Infectious disease.....	0.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	0.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	1.
Cancer.....	9

[illegible]

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers during the year, Mr. G. G. Evans, remained as your Public Health Inspector.

Nursing and other facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, eye, dental and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted to Hereford Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital receive cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital Rhondda.

Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The Council own 10 water supplies serving the villages and hamlets of their district. There are 8 private supplies which serve six properties or more, and there are 181 supplies serving five properties or less, and 88 of these are piped supplies, the remainder being either pumps or springs.

The summer and autumn of 1961 was fairly dry with the result that many village supplies suffered a shortage of water, and the position of each parish is given below:-

Aberllynfi Parish. The northern half of this village is supplied with water from the springs at Lodge Farm while the southern half receives water from Velindre reservoir. There was an adequate supply throughout the year. One sample of water was taken and this was satisfactory.

Bronllys Parish. There are two supplies in this parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves the sanatorium and houses belonging thereto. The other is owned by the Council and serves most of the remaining properties in the village - the water being collected from springs and is untreated. When the supply is insufficient during the summer months it can be augmented by the Talgarth supply. There are 13 other small private supplies serving individual farms. During the summer and autumn of 1961 the supply generally was insufficient and the Talgarth supply was turned on to augment it. The 10 new Council houses being erected in the village were given a supply off the Council's 3" main. One sample of water was taken during the year and was satisfactory.

Talgarth Parish. There are three main public supplies in this parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves the Mid-Wales Mental Hospital and houses belonging thereto. The other two are owned by the Council.

The larger of the Council's supplies serves some 404 dwellings in Talgarth, this supply being received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital. This supply is sand filtered and chlorinated. There are two other properties which are served by a standpipe.

The smaller of the Council's supplies serves the hamlet of Trefecca to 28 dwellings. The water is taken from springs and the quantity available dropped considerably during the summer drought.

In addition to the above there are 40 private supplies in the parish of Talgarth of which 30 are piped supplies.

One sample of water was taken from the Talgarth main supply during 1961 and this was satisfactory.

Llanelieu Parish. There are only 16 properties in this parish, 11 being in the Wye Valley and 5 in the Usk Valley and all have private supplies from various sources. No samples were taken during the year.

Glynfach Parish and Usk Valley portion of Tregoyd and Velindre Parish.

There are 10 untreated private supplies in this area, 4 being small piped supplies and the other six from open springs. No samples were taken during the year.

Llanigon Parish.The Council own the supply serving the village of Llanigon. The water being taken from springs and collected in a small reservoir and the water is untreated. This supply serves some 32 houses and farms. There are 10 other small private supplies and 6 of these are piped. The quantity of water from the Council supply was adequate throughout the year.

The Council also own the supply which serves the hamlet of Ffordlaes. Water being pumped by Ram from Llwynfilly Farm to a small underground reservoir, and the water is also filtered. One sample was taken during the year and this was unsatisfactory.

Hay Rural Parish.14 properties in this parish obtain their water from the Llanigon supply. There are 15 private supplies in the parish and 8 of these are piped.

No samples were taken during the year.

Llyswen Parish.The Council own the supply serving this village, water being collected from two sources to reservoirs and both are untreated. Of the 66 dwellings in the parish, 56 have water laid on. The quantity of water dropped considerably during the dry summer and the main from the reservoir at Llandefalle Road was duplicated into the village and it is hoped this will provide adequate water in the dry months when the Tir-Gwalter springs dry up.

Pipton Parish.There are 11 private supplies in this parish of which 8 are piped, the other properties being supplied by pumps.

No samples were taken during the year.

Tregoyd & Velindre Parish.Most of the properties in this parish are served from the Council's sources at Velindre. Of the 127 dwellings in the parish, 113 have water laid on and 1 is served from a standpipe. The water from Velindre reservoir is sand filtered and chlorinated. The purchase by the Council of the small reservoir on Coed-y-Polyn Common will improve the distribution of water in the Glasbury area.

Two private supplies serve most of the properties in the village of Glasbury, some of the water being received as an overflow from the Council's source at Llwynfilly Farm.

No samples were taken during the year.

Hay Area Water Scheme.Negotiations have proceeded during the year between the District Valuers and the various landowners for the acquisition of land for the construction of reservoirs and pumping stations, and consultations have also taken place with the landowners adjoining Llanbwchlllyn Lake regarding a supply of water to fields near the lake. The Council's Consulting Civil Engineers are now preparing further details for the scheme.

Numbers of properties served from public mains and population is as given on amended Table.

	Houses with piped supply	Population served	Number with standpipes	Population served
Aberllynfi	40	144	0	0
Bronllys	99	356	0	0
Talgarth	432	1555	2	7
Trefecca	Included	in Talgarth		
Llanelieu	0	0	0	0
Glynfach	0	0	0	0
Llanigon	37	133	2	5
Ffordlais	Included	in Llanigon		
Hay Rural	14	50	0	0
Llyswen	56	201	0	0
Pipton	0	0	0	0
Tregoyd & Velindre	113	406	1	2

Drainage and Sewerage. The resignation of the Engineer and Surveyor and the long illness and subsequent death of the Clerk of Works, coupled with the commencement of the sewerage scheme for Glasbury (Radnorshire) and the construction of the ten houses at Bronllys, restricted progress on new schemes during the year.

Aberllynfi. An outline sewage disposal scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and an Engineering Inspector investigated the Council's proposals on the 10th. October. Approval in principle was received on the 15th. November, subject to a number of amendments to the engineering details.

Priorities. A combined programme for the design and construction of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the district was agreed with Hay Urban District Council and Painscastle Rural District Council in December, and the following priorities were fixed for the Council's schemes:-

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Scheme</u>
2	Talgarth and Bronllys
4	Aberllynfi
7	Ffordlaes
8	Llanigon
10	Glasbury

Number of visits to drainage work.....37.

Public Cleansing. Refuse is collected once weekly in Talgarth, Bronllys, Llyswen, Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre, Llanigon and the parish of Hay Rural. The only parishes not included in the scheme are Llanellieu and Glynfach. Refuse is collected by the Council's own lorry and disposed of by tipping at Bronllys tip, the work and staff being under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

Salvage. Collection of waste paper was undertaken. Some 14 tons of baled mixed waste paper was sent away during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector and the following details give information relating to this work.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	23.
Number of complaints investigated.....	23.
Number of premises visited.....	23.
Number of premises revisited.....	9.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	2.
Number of abatement notices served.....	2.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises. There are 15 licensed houses, 1 licensed club and 3 off-license premises in the district. 13 of the licensed premises are highly satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint.

Number of inspections.....26.

Camping Sites. There were two licensed caravan sites in the district, situated at Llyswen and at Bronllys.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.
Number of visits made.....Nil.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations. No premises were found to be so infested during the year.

Rodent Control. One full time operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban District Council and Painscastle Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....532.
Number of premises found infested.....143.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....109.
Number treated by occupier.....36.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....1739.
Number of dead rats actually recovered.....506.
The sewers in Talgarth were baited in June. No takes were recorded.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing. At the end of 1961 there were 50 applicants on the Housing List for Council Houses in each parish as follows:-

Parish	Number of applicants	Number living in rooms	1 No.	2 of bedrooms	3 required	4
Aberllynfi and Glasbury	5	-	0	3	2	0
Bronllys	11	-	1	5	4	1
Llanigon	2	-	1	1	0	0
Talgarth	28	-	7	14	6	1
Llyswen	1	-	0	0	1	0
Velindre	3	-	2	1	0	0
Totals	50	-	11	24	13	2

There are 195 Council houses in the district..A further 10 houses were under construction at Bronllys.

No private houses were constructed during the year, making a total of 41 erected since the war.

Eight discretionary grants were approved in 1961 and three standard grants were also approved.

Five farmhouses were improved during the year with grants under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts. .

Number of house to house inspections.....105.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspections were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....52.

2. The number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....0.

- 3.The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notice requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....0.
- 4.The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....0.
- 5.The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....6.
- 6.The number of demolition or closing orders made.....2.
- 7.The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act,1957.....5.
- 8.Number of houses demolished.....6.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.There are two dealers registered in the district who sell T.T. pasteurised and sterilised milk.There are no dairies registered. One dealer is registered in Brecon Borough and one in Hay Urban District.

Meat. There is one slaughterhouse registered in the district.All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deals in waste food products.All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....72.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known					
Number inspected	89	-	505	111	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	34	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercolosis and cysticerci	5.61	-	6.73	6.30	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

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Meat Condemned.	Cattle.....10 lbs.	Other Animals....11 lbs.
Other Foods Condemned.	Tins.....0.	Food(weight).....56 lbs.

Other Foods.
Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made.....17.

No alterations were made to the slaughterhouse at Talgarth to bring it up to the necessary standard. The owner has,however until January 1st. 1963, to do this.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....43.

No manufacture of ice cream is carried out in the district,there being 17 retailers.No samples of ice cream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....15.
There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Shops. There are 24 shops in the district which deal in food and may be classified as follows:-

Grocers.....	10.
Grocer/Confectioners.....	2.
Grocer/Cafe.....	1.
Grocer/Bakers.....	1.
Bakers.....	1.
Cafes.....	1.
Greengrocers.....	2.
Confectioners/Tobacconists.....	4.
Butchers.....	1.
Fish and Chips.....	1.
Fishmongers.....	0.

The district is also served by such tradesmen from contiguous areas.

Number of inspections under Shops Acts.....27.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Measles.....	199 cases.
Non-paralytic poliomyelitis.....	1 case.

The district experienced a severe epidemic of measles in the months of April,May and June. The case of poliomyelitis was treated in Hereford Hospital where complete recovery occurred.
No other cases were admitted to hospital and no deaths occurred as a result of infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of such cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in 1961 and recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....49.
 Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....6.
 Number of cases removed due to recovery.....11.
 Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....1.
 Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....42.

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below:-

<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
10.	10.	9.	3.	10.	2.	13.	12.	8.	6.

It must be pointed out that, of these 6 new cases admitted to the register during the year, 4 were transfers from other districts. This left a total of 2 fresh cases occurring in the district during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Appendix

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAY IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	-	-
ii. Factories not included in(i) which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	13	10	-	-
iii. Other premises in Which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	17	18	-	-

2.Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two,three or more
separate occasions they should be reckoned as two,three or more cases)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a)Insufficient	2	-	-	2	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	6	4	-	2	-

There was no out-work done during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health